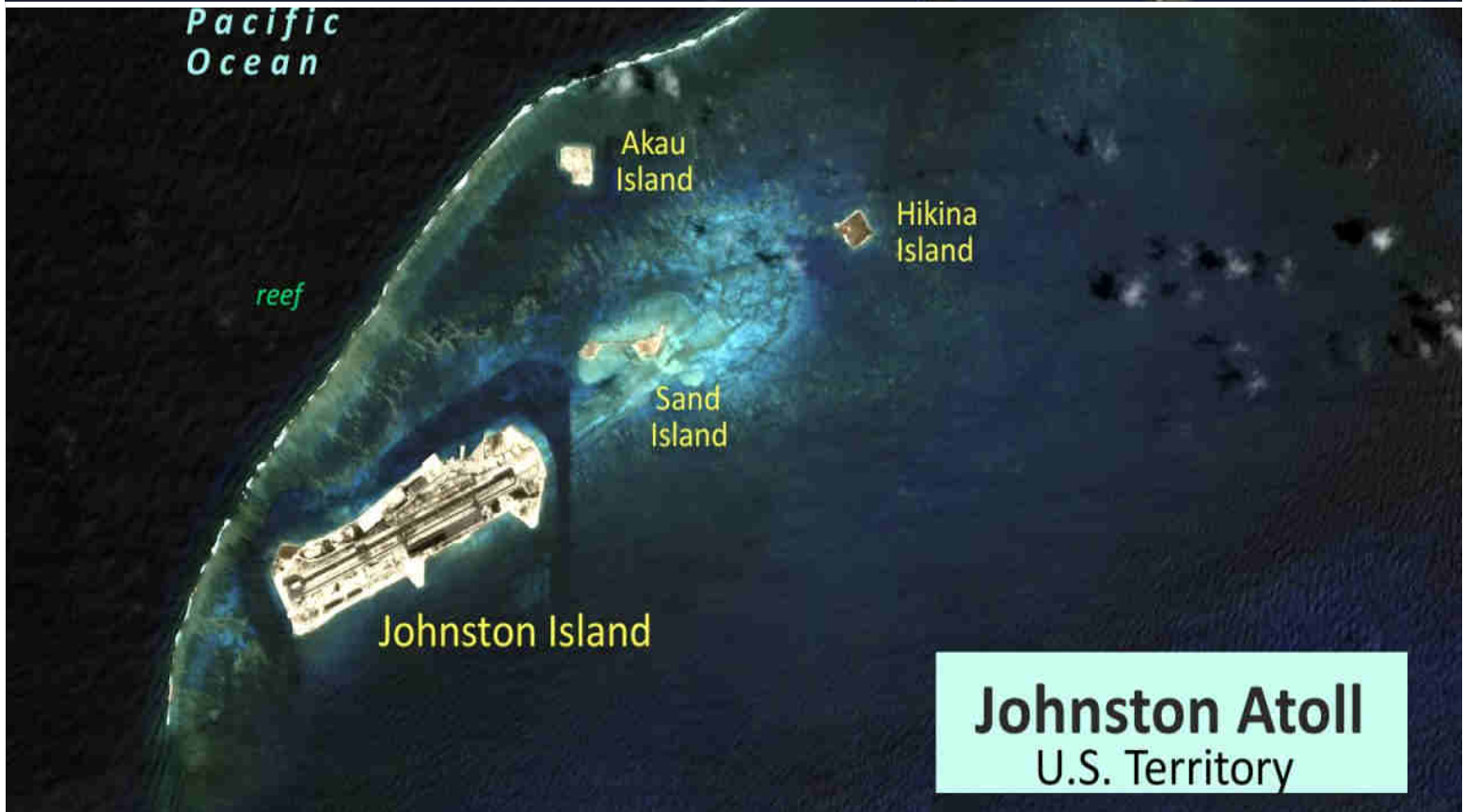


# San Diego DX Club Bulletin

September 2022



**MEETING PROGRAM**  
Our presenter will be announced shortly

#### MEETING NOTICE

The September, 2022 meeting of the SDDXC will be held on Wednesday, September 28th at 6:30 P.M. PDST at Elijah's Restaurant located at 7061 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard as well as on Zoom. Come early for social hour and dinner.

## Johnston Atoll U.S. Territory

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**Bob LaRose, W6ACU**  
**Danny Floyd, WB6FWS**

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**John Barcroft, K6AM**  
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**"TOP 10":**

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## From the Prez . . .

*Miguel, KJ6YXI*

### Topic: SDDXC September, 2022 Meeting

Time: Sep 28, 2022 06:30 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86310921236?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86310921236?pwd=alczWHRob3lOWHFrMTF3Vy9mRzJhUT09)  
[pwd=alczWHRob3lOWHFrMTF3Vy9mRzJhUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86310921236?pwd=alczWHRob3lOWHFrMTF3Vy9mRzJhUT09)

Meeting ID: 863 1092 1236

Passcode: 819029

One tap mobile

+16694449171,,86410098500#,,,,\*911591# US

+16699006833,,86410098500#,,,,\*911591# US (San Jose)

Dial by your location

+1 669 444 9171 US

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 719 359 4580 US

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 386 347 5053 US

+1 564 217 2000 US

+1 646 931 3860 US

+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 309 205 3325 US

Meeting ID: 864 1009 8500

Passcode: 911591

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kbzPfsUGZN>

*Miguel, KJ6YXI*

## Secretary/Treasurer Reports

*Randy, KQ6RS*

### SDDXC Meeting Minutes, August 24, 2022

Our August meeting was held in person at Elijah's Restaurant and on Zoom. Nineteen members attended (12 in person and seven on Zoom). We had two guests. They were Larry Mallek, K6YUI and Noel Encarnacion, AG6KA, both 2<sup>nd</sup> time guests.

At 6:36 P.M. Miguel Rivera, KJ6YXI called the meeting to order.

At 6:39 P.M. we started our round table.

At 6:48 P.M. Mike Carper, WA9PIE (owner of Ham Radio Deluxe) gave a presentation on the HRD software suite. His presentation was followed by a lengthy Q&A session. Mike finished at 7:57 P.M..

At 7:59 P.M. New Business:

1. If there is enough interest, we may have a summer bash, tentatively to be held on September 11 at Old Poway Park.
2. The Holiday party is being organized.

At 8:16 P.M. the meeting adjourned.

### Treasurer's Report

Income for August: \$20.00 Membership

Expenses for August: None

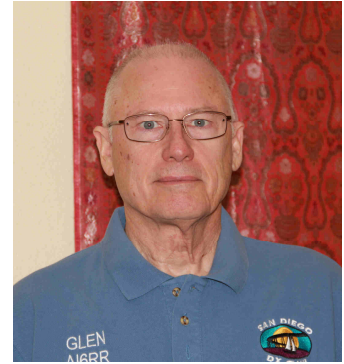
Balance on 8/29/2022 was: \$6,340.10



*Randy, KQ6RS*

## **SDDXC DX STANDINGS**

**By Glenn, AI6RR**



Standings are always available on the SDDXC website at  
[San Diego DX Club \(sddxc.org\)](http://sddxc.org)

*Glenn, AI6RR*

## SDDXC Contest Results

By John, K6AM



### SDDXC RESULTS 2021 CALIFORNIA QSO PARTY

CLASS	CALL	SCORE	CW QSO'S	SSB QSO'S	TOT QSO'S	MLT S	FINISH
M/S	NX6T @WA6TQT (N6KI, WM6Y, VE4EA, N7NR, N6NC, W6ZAR, N6CY, K4RB, N6ERD ops)	330,716	1256	967	2223	58	<b>All time RIVE Co. record</b> <b>1<sup>st</sup> place CA</b> Clean sweep
<u>SO</u> HP	NT6Q (op N5ZO)	356,294	1663	577	2240	58	<b>1<sup>st</sup> place CA</b> Clean sweep Wine winner
<u>SO</u> LP	KI6RRN	286,995	1212	698	1910	57	<b>1<sup>st</sup> place CA</b> Wine winner
<u>SO</u> LP	WN6K (SK)	155,211	705	304	1009	57	3rd place CA
<u>SO</u> LP	W6JBR	180	0	10	10	9	

2021 produced another great showing from San Diego players in the CQP. SDDXC club stations won **three** more first place plaques. Marco, N5ZO operating as NT6Q took SOHP while Axel, KI6RRN did the same in SOLP with one mult short. BTW, Marco and Axel will be one of the teams representing the USA in next year's WRTC competition in Bologna, Italy. Dennis, N6KI's team had another great finish from the WA6TQT super station in Anza in Riverside County taking first place in M/S, and setting the all time record for that county with all ops running remote from their respective homes in San Diego and elsewhere.

The CQP marks the beginning of the fall contest season. The 2022 running is fast approaching. It runs from 1600z Oct 1 until 2200z Oct 2. Go to [cqpc.org](http://cqpc.org) for details on the new rules, county abbreviations and all the other details.

John, K6AM



## From the Editor

By: Bob, K9RHY

### Johnston Atoll, KH3, # 8 on the DXCC Most Wanted Entity List



When I recently published my summary of the ARRL DXCC's most Wanted Entity list in July, 2022, I received many comments (thanks to all who read my story and sent me their comments and questions). The entity that provoked the most questions, however, was Johnston Atoll, KH3, #8 in the "most Wanted" list. Johnston Atoll's place on the list surprised me.

Johnston Atoll is a National Wildlife Refuge administered by the United States. Specifically, Johnston Atoll is part of the Pacific Remote Islands area which also includes Wake, Baker, Howland, and Jarvis Islands, Kingman Reef, and Palmyra Atoll. The Pacific Remote Islands area lies to the south and west of Hawaii and with the exception of Wake Island, these islands are administered by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior. With the exception of Palmyra and Jarvis lands, KH5 (at #20 on the Wanted List - the last operation was K5P in January 2016 that produced 79,211 QSOs, lessening demand for a new major operation) none of the other Pacific Remote Islands are in the top 25 of the List. So, why is Johnston Atoll so rare and, perhaps more importantly, when will we hear KH3 on the bands again?

I'll try to answer these questions but my crystal ball is no clearer than any others, so please take my comments with a grain of salt.

Let's begin with a bit of the history surrounding activation of other rare entities administered by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior. These entities are Desecheo Island and Navassa Island. Both were once near the top of the Most Wanted list and now are no longer considered "rare".

#### Desecheo Island (KP5)

In 1937 President Roosevelt transferred Descheo to the government of Puerto Rico for use as a forest and bird preserve. With the out-break of World War II, the island was transferred back to the federal government for use as a bombing and gunnery range. It was used as such until 1952. Between 1952 and 1964 Desecheo was used for survival training by the U.S. Air Force. In 1965 the island was declared as surplus property by the military, and in July 1966 it was acquired by the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. In December 1976, Desecheo was designated a National Wildlife Refuge administered by the United State Fish and Wildlife Service. In March 1979, Desecheo was recognized by the ARRL's DXCC program as a new entity under the separate administration criteria, after the first operation by KP4AM/D. During the 1980's and early 1990's there were 10 operations from Desecheo which kept the demand for KP5 fairly low, but in the mid 90's things changed and Special Use Permits were no longer issued causing Desecheo to slowly creep up the most wanted list.

Disagreement between DXers and the Fish and Wildlife Service grew. There were repeated denials for Special Use Permits; there were appeals, lawsuits, and a bill introduced in the U. S. House of Representatives. These disagreements increased the tensions between hams and the USG, but eventually would lead to a compromise. By then Desecheo was in the Top Ten of the Most Wanted DXCC List.

The breakthrough came in January, 2008 and culminated mid-summer when the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service sent an RFP (Request for Proposal) to every radio group and individual that had requested a Special Use Permit to operate from Desecheo in the previous 5 - 10 years. Their offer was for a 14-day operation with a maximum of 15 operators sometime in the fall of 2008. Fish and Wildlife would evaluate each proposal on a point system based on a stringent list of nine items. A three-person panel would review the proposals received. The deadline for proposals was August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008 and seven proposals were received. Finally on October 1<sup>st</sup>, it was announced that the winning proposal was submitted by The KP1-5 Project team. A few weeks later the decision was made that the operation would take place not in the fall of 2008, but sometime in January – March 2009 timeframe.

So prayers were answered and Descheo dropped off the Top 10 list where it remains to this day.

### **Navassa Island (KP1)**

In 1504, Christopher Columbus, stranded on Jamaica during his fourth voyage, sent some crew members by canoe to Hispaniola for help. Enroute, they landed on Navassa Island, but it had no water. They called it Navaza (from "nava-" meaning plain, or field), and it was avoided by mariners for the next 350 years.

Navassa is subject to an ongoing territorial dispute between Haiti and the United States, which administers the island through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as an act to further delegitimize Haiti's claim over the island. Navassa is officially, but unrecognized, territory of both Haiti and the United States at this moment.

The U.S. has claimed the island since 1857, based on the Guano Islands Act of 1856. Haiti's claim over Navassa goes back to the Treaty of Ryswick in 1697 that established French possessions in mainland Hispaniola, that were transferred from Spain by the treaty.

After World War II hams occasionally visited to operate from the territory. From 1903 to 1917, Navassa was a dependency of the U.S. Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, and from 1917 to 1996, it was under United States Coast Guard administration

In September 1999, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service established the Navassa Island National Wildlife Refuge. Later that year, full administrative responsibility for Navassa was transferred from the Office of Insular Affairs to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Due to hazardous coastal conditions and for preservation of species habitat, the refuge is closed to the general public, and visitors need permission from the Fish and Wildlife Service to enter its territorial waters or land.

Since it became a National Wildlife Refuge, amateur radio operators have repeatedly been denied entry. In October 2014, permission was granted for a two-week DX-pedition in February 2015 (K1N). The operation made 138,409 contacts.

Prior to the K1N operation, Navassa had not been active for 22 years. When the K1N operation took place, Navassa Island was #1 on phone, #5 on CW, and #4 on digital modes on the DXCC Want List. The Fish and Wildlife Service is on record saying that there will be no further amateur radio operation from Navassa for at least 10 more years which means that Navassa might reenter the Top 10 list at some point. (I hope you got them.)

### **Johnston Atoll, (KH3)**

Johnston Atoll was accidentally discovered on September 2, 1796 by Captain Joseph Pierpont of the American Brig Sally. He published a notice of his ship's grounding in several American newspapers in 1797, giving an accurate position and noting the two original islands (Johnston and Sand) and the incomplete marginal reef. No traces or records of any earlier visitations or occupations by Polynesians or Europeans during their voyages of discovery exist. Lt. William Smith of HMS Cornwallis named the larger island for his ship's captain, Charles J. Johnston, after sighting it briefly on December 14, 1807.

JOSEPH PIERPONT writing in *The Boston Price Current and Marine Intelligencer*, September 14, 1797. Also in the *Philadelphia Gazette*, September 18, and *Claypoole's American Daily Advertiser* (Philadelphia, Pa), September 19, 1797:

"DISCOVERY. In lat. 16, 45, N. long. 169, 38 W. from London, on my passage from the Sandwich Islands to China, the 2d. of Sept. 1796, at midnight, in company with the sch. Prince William Henry, William Wake, master, of London, we both ran ashore on the North-side of a reef of Coral rocks and sand, where we continued until the next day noon—at which time the weather being very clear, we saw two small Islands of Sand, bearing W by N. 4 or 5 miles distant; and from our topgallant-mast-head, we saw the shoal extending E.S.E. southerly round to W.S.W.—but how far we were not able to determine. Keep the lat. 17. N. and the shoal will not be seen."

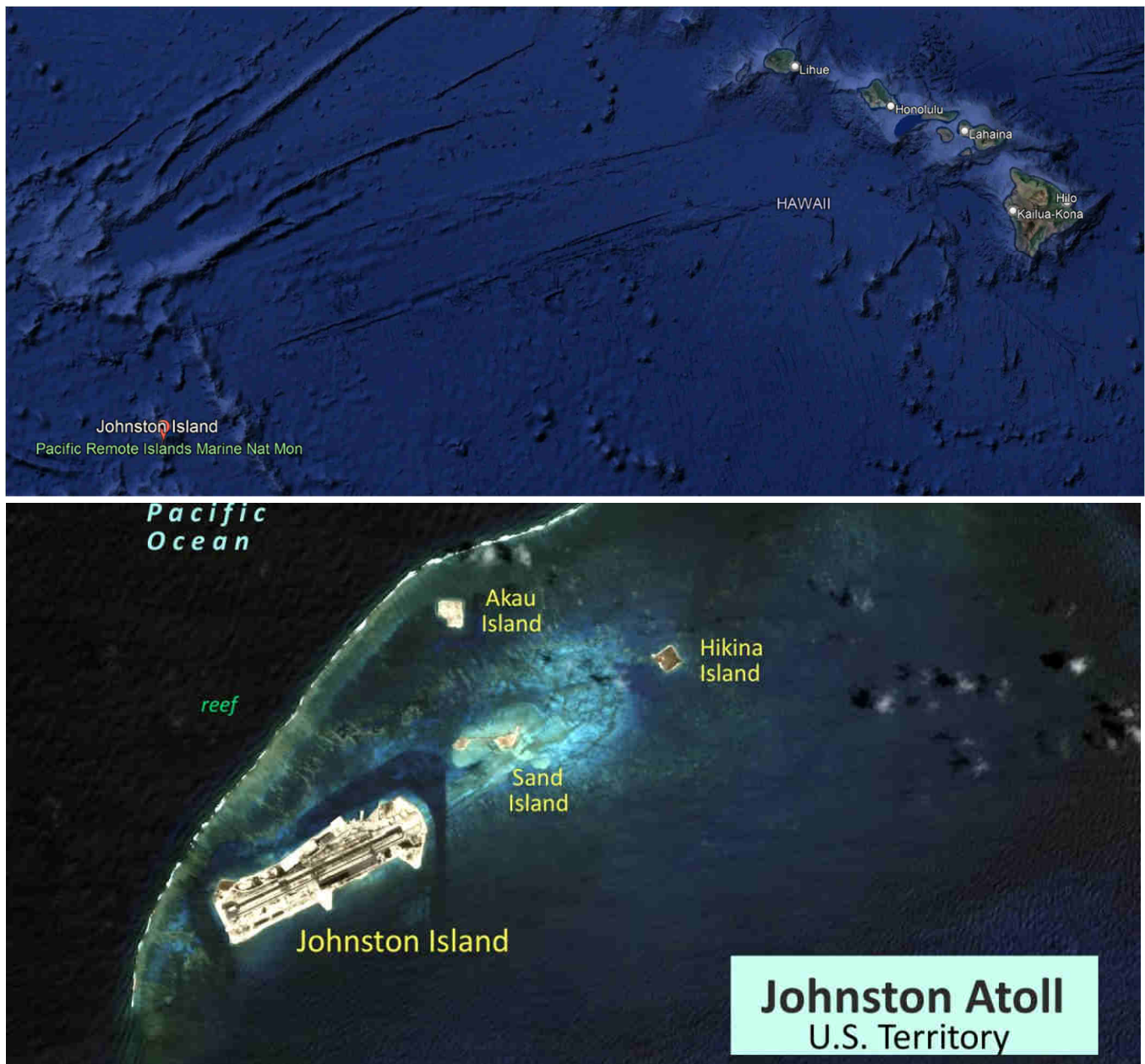
Johnston Atoll, the northernmost island in the island chain, is an ancient atoll and probably one of the oldest in the Pacific Ocean. Unlike most atolls, it does not have a surrounding barrier reef but has a semicircular emergent reef around the north and western margins of the island. Four major habitats characterize Johnston: low-lying islets consisting of the remains of corals and shells, shallow coral reefs to depths of 150 meters, deeper reefs to depths of 1,000 meters or more, and the slope of the ancient volcano upon which the island rests.

Johnston is a genetic and larval stepping stone from the Remote Islands to the Hawaiian Islands for invertebrates, other reef fauna, corals, and dolphins. Despite its isolation, Johnston supports thriving communities of Table corals (Acropora) and a total of 45 coral species, including a dozen species confined to the Hawaiian and northern Line Islands. Some 300 species of reef fish are at Johnston, including the endemic Nahacky's pygmy angelfish.



Many threatened, endangered, and depleted species thrive there, including the green turtle, hawksbill turtle, pearl oyster, giant clams, reef sharks, groupers, humphead wrasse, bumphead parrotfish, whales, and dolphins. Endangered Hawaiian Monk Seals occasionally visit the atoll. Deep diving submersible surveys have revealed that Johnston supports the deepest reef building corals (*Leptoseris*) on record and large populations of hydrozoan corals (*Millepora*, *Distichopora*, *Styaster*). Land areas support large populations of migratory shorebirds and resident seabird species, including populations of regional, national, or international significance: Wedge-tailed Shearwaters, Christmas Shearwaters, Red-tailed Tropicbirds, Brown Boobies, Great Frigatebirds, Gray-backed Terns, and White Terns. Approximately 200 threatened green turtles forage at Johnston. The surrounding waters are used by six depleted or endangered listed cetacean species: Sperm, Blue, Sei, Humpback, and North Pacific Right whales. Spinner dolphins are abundant, and endangered Humpback whales may calve there.

But despite the wildlife and corals, Johnston Atoll is really in the middle of nowhere.



Johnston Atoll has been on the DXCC list since 1945. QSOs count for Johnston Atoll starting on November 15, 1945.

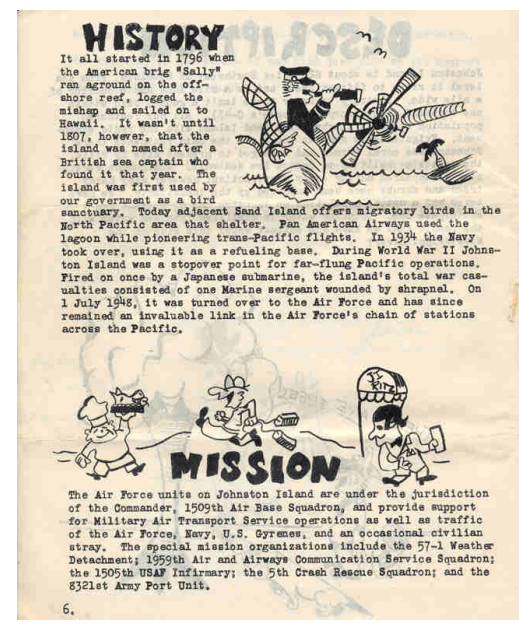
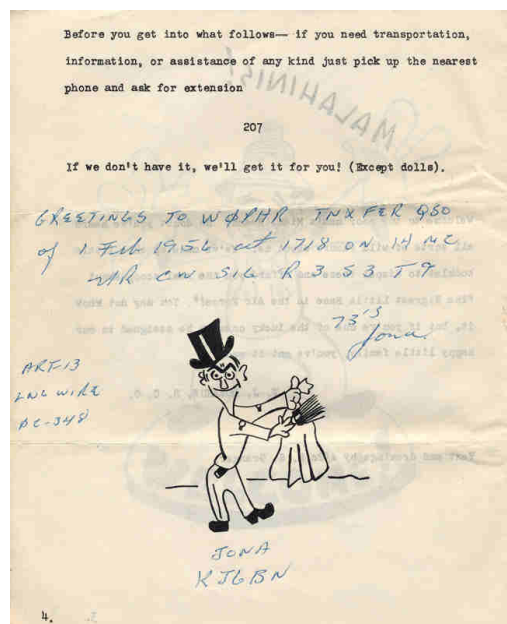
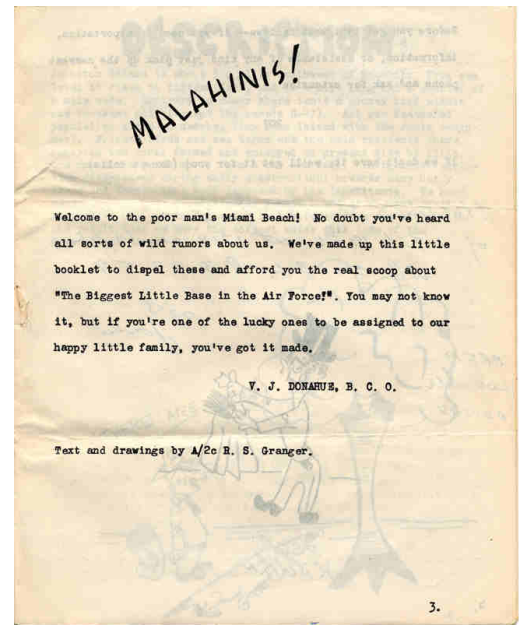
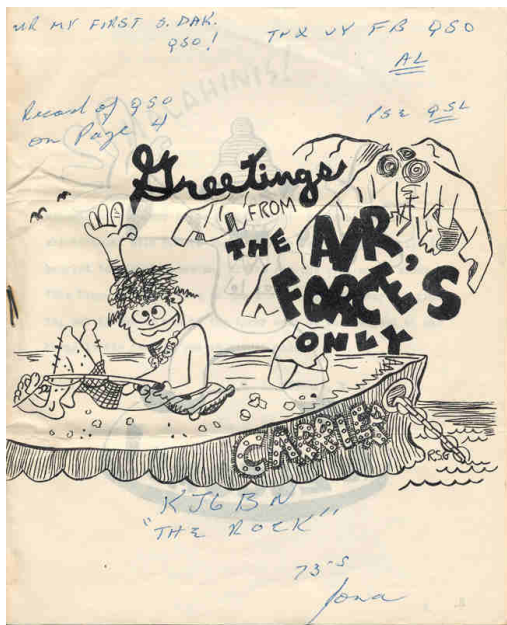
The Johnston Atoll DXCC entity consists only of Johnston Atoll, aka Kalama Atoll; there are no satellite islands.

The KE6 prefix was used for Johnston Atoll up to 1947. From mid-1947, the KJ6 prefix was used for Johnston Atoll, with WJ6 for novice stations. These prefixes continued to be used until the US callsign revision of March 24, 1978, from which date the prefix became KH3, with AH3, NH3 and WH3 also being used.

The Johnston Atoll military facility has been decommissioned and closed, the last flight out was on June 15, 2004. The atoll is now administered by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Entry was previously extremely difficult and largely restricted to scientists and educators **but is now forbidden**.

Prior to the restrictions to atoll entry being imposed, ham radio operation was frequent and routine. ClubLog lists over 50 different operations from KH3, the last being KH3/KT6E, active from March to July, 2003.

Here is a 16 page brochure telling about the life on Johnston Atoll made by the guys on Johnston Atoll in 1956.





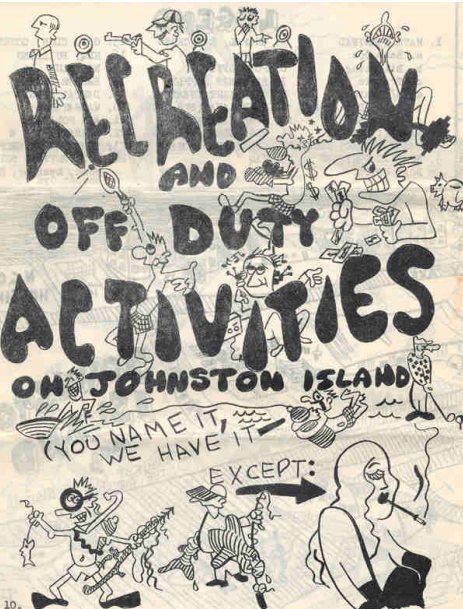
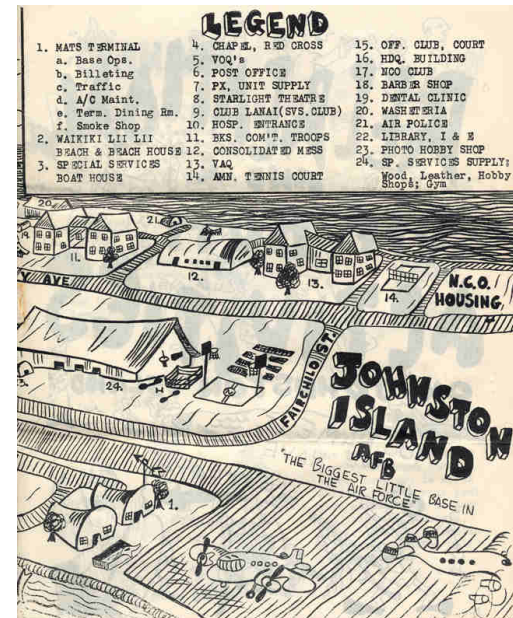
## CLIMATE

Here is where we explode a few myths about weather on a Pacific isle. The climate is maritime-tropical, and there's always a breeze blowing which keeps everything cool and is swell for drying clothes. It never gets really hot, the maximum temperature rarely reaches ninety. There is relatively high humidity, but with only two to three inches of rain-fall per month with the heaviest during fall and winter months. Johnston Island is not affected by typhoons and is a fine place to acquire a deep, billboard suntan.



## CLOTHING

The summer uniform is in year-round vogue here; taboo, however, is mixed uniform. Bring your real gone garments for leaves and passes to Honolulu, and for the winter months a sweater or jacket will be comfortable.



**AQUAPLANTING**...After a few dunkings you'll enjoy this easier-than-you-think sport. Water skiing also; inquire at the boat house.

**BASKETBALL**...A good court available all year and gang ho enthusiasm make for a fine intra-mural league.

**BOATING**...Lightning glass sailboats for putting about the lagoon; plenty of speedboats for putt putting about.

**BOXING**...Many a J.I. boy has gone on to higher AF competitions. Ring, gloves, bags available to aspiring pugilists.

**FISHING (BOTTOM)**...You probably guessed that this is one of our most popular sports. Special Services furnishes the tackle and the Pacific Ocean cooperates well, too. Many varieties of game fish, smaller style, are eager to be friends with dock and shore fishermen while their bigger buddies await trollers in the 35-footer. Non-edible, however, so watch your diet and regulations.

**FISHING (DEEP SEA)**...All may use the 36 foot, fir-bulled beauty. Marlin, dolphin, alula, as well as sharks and other good sports await you beyond the reef. Good and safe eating.

**GOLF DRIVING**...Surprised you have use for your clubs after all! Keep in RANGE...practice at the finest range to be found in the middle of the Pacific Ocean.

**LEATH MOCRAFT**...An absorbing hobby. Design and make fine gift and personal items in our amazingly equipped shop.

**LIBRARY**...Everything from Spillane to Shakespeare offering much fine reading.

**N.C.O. CLUB**...Club opens 1630 until 2300 every night Mondays through Fridays. Saturdays 1200 until 2430 and Sundays 1200 until 2300. Movies nightly except party nights; a short order counter for stomach drunks.

**OFFICERS CLUB**...Meal hours Mondays through Saturdays 0645 until 0745; 1200 until 1300; and 1745 until 1900. Sunday serving 0830 until 1130 and 1715 until 1900. Movies nightly except party nights.

**PHOTO HOBBY**...Snap 'em, develop 'em, and print 'em. Club Lanai serves free coffee every evening at six, and party with coffee Sunday mornings. Open 1300 every day (but Thurs., 1800) until 2200. Bingo & other games make this a pretty popular Johnston Island rendezvous.

## ACTIVITIES(MORE)

**SHOOTING RANGE**...Bang away to your heart's content on our 1000-incher.

**SOFTBALL**...A go-get-'em league during the season and during the other months a good sport. See Special Services for materials.

**SP-ARFISHING**...Be you freshman or senior at this, you'll find endless activity under our waters. Everybody who comes to Johnston thrashes about under water at one time or other; a few extending here to become quite adept at skewering game fish, collecting wonderful shells, and ogling with awe the exquisite underwater show. Efficient paraphernalia available at the exchange.

**STARLIGHT THEATRE**...Our hallowed open air picture palace with a different flick every night and no charge. U.S.O. Shows, Hickam AFB Band concerts, and base shows are frequent stage presentations.

**TENNIS**...Four courts and Special Services' rackets help you keep your backhand in shape.

**VOLLEYBALL**...Active interest makes for a gang ho league. The base team competes to compete with other bases.

**WAIKIKI LII LII**...Well equipped and popular, "Little Waikiki" turns our BEACH...troopers a deep, lotion advertisement tan.

**WAIKIKI LII LII**...Soft and firm drinks, hamburgers, etc., on the sheltered BEACH HOUSE...lanai, wafted by cool breezes on the broad, blue-green Pacific. Who wants to rotate?

**WRIGHT LIFTING**...Beneficial bulges from battling barbells.

**WOODWORKING**...Turn out works of art in the shop which has both largeness and all the latest gadgets, machines, and tools.

**WRESTLING**...Instruction, practice, and perspiration are available for those with the yem to put a Half Nelson on someone.

**W.V.T.V.**...Our Armed Forces Radio outlet brings us music and a wide variety of statewide entertainment from 0500 until 2400 every day.

## RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES

Two chaplains in our quonset chapel. Those of Hebrew faith go to Honolulu for observance of holy days. Here is the Sunday schedule of services:

Protestant  
Sunday School: 1000  
Morning Worship: 1100  
Evening Worship: 1830

Catholic  
Confession: 0700  
Mass: 0730  
Confession: 0830  
Mass: 0900

## SCOOP

**BANKING**...Here is a real opportunity to hoard some gold. Closest vault is the Bishop National Bank, Honolulu, and they welcome your accounts. There is a check cashing service through the Exchange, HQO Club and Officers Club.

**BARBER SHOP**...Two barbers keep everybody trimmed but the haircuts are only four bits. Open Mondays through Saturdays, 0730-1200; 1300-1700.

**BASE EXCHANGE**...Open Mondays through Fridays 0915 until 1130. After lunch they're trading from 1230 until 1245. Saturdays: 0915 until 1245.

**CONSOLIDATED**...Fine foods, a la Air Force. Permanent structure, four DINING HALL, man tables, and resident civilian attendants (K.P.'s that is) make this prominent part of Johnston life pretty pleasant.

(cont'd)

## SCOOP (MORE)

**COMMISARY**...Wide selection of fresh & frozen foods, including cream, milk, ice cream and meats. Closed Wed. and Sun. Hours: 0930-1230. First day after pay day: 0930-1230; 1330-1500.

**HOUSING**...According to seniority, apartments and quonsets. Pro-rated to accommodate tenants also. The sergeants and officers have equal facilities. Airman's barracks are roomy and pleasant. They are of dormitory type, 2 men to a room (after 1 Dec. 1954).

**LAUNDRY & DRY CLEANING**...Nominal rates and fast service make the exchange washateria popular. Open eight to five, Mondays thru Saturdays. Unit Supply handles the G.I. laundry, while the dry cleaning goes to Honolulu from the P.X. and returns in a week.

**MEDICAL FACILITIES**...A hospital efficiently equipped with doctor, nurse, corpsmen, 20 beds and a pharmacy. The dental clinic is one of the best (two chairs, no waiting). Sick call for both establishments is 0730.

**NEWSPAPERS**...Delivered as they arrive from Honolulu. The youngest's age is about 24 hours.

**PETS**...Please don't bring any animals to Johnston Island. They have to be impounded for four months in Honolulu and really, we have veteran cats and mutts as it is.

**POST OFFICE**...A.P.O.#105 offers regular stateside rates. Hours:  
Stamp Window: Mon-Fri: 0730-1530  
Sat: 0730-1200  
Money Order: Mon-Fri: 0730-1100  
Window: 1200-1530  
Sat: 0730-1200

**SCHOOLS**...Kindergarten through sixth grade in three school houses, taught by accredited teachers.

**TERMINAL DINING ROOM**...Meals and snacks aimed to please the palates of both hungry airman and weary travellers. Provides a change from our G.I. chow (which incidentally, is excellent).

**TERMINAL SMOKE SHOP**...This branch of the Exchange offers miscellany & cool pop to travellers and all. Opens on arrival or departure of aircraft.

**WIVES CLUBS**...Officers wives & HQO wives have their own club activities, i.e. meetings, socials, parties, etc. The staff side of any family due to join forces with us can get further scoop by writing to the president of either club.

## OUR MOTTO SERVICE!

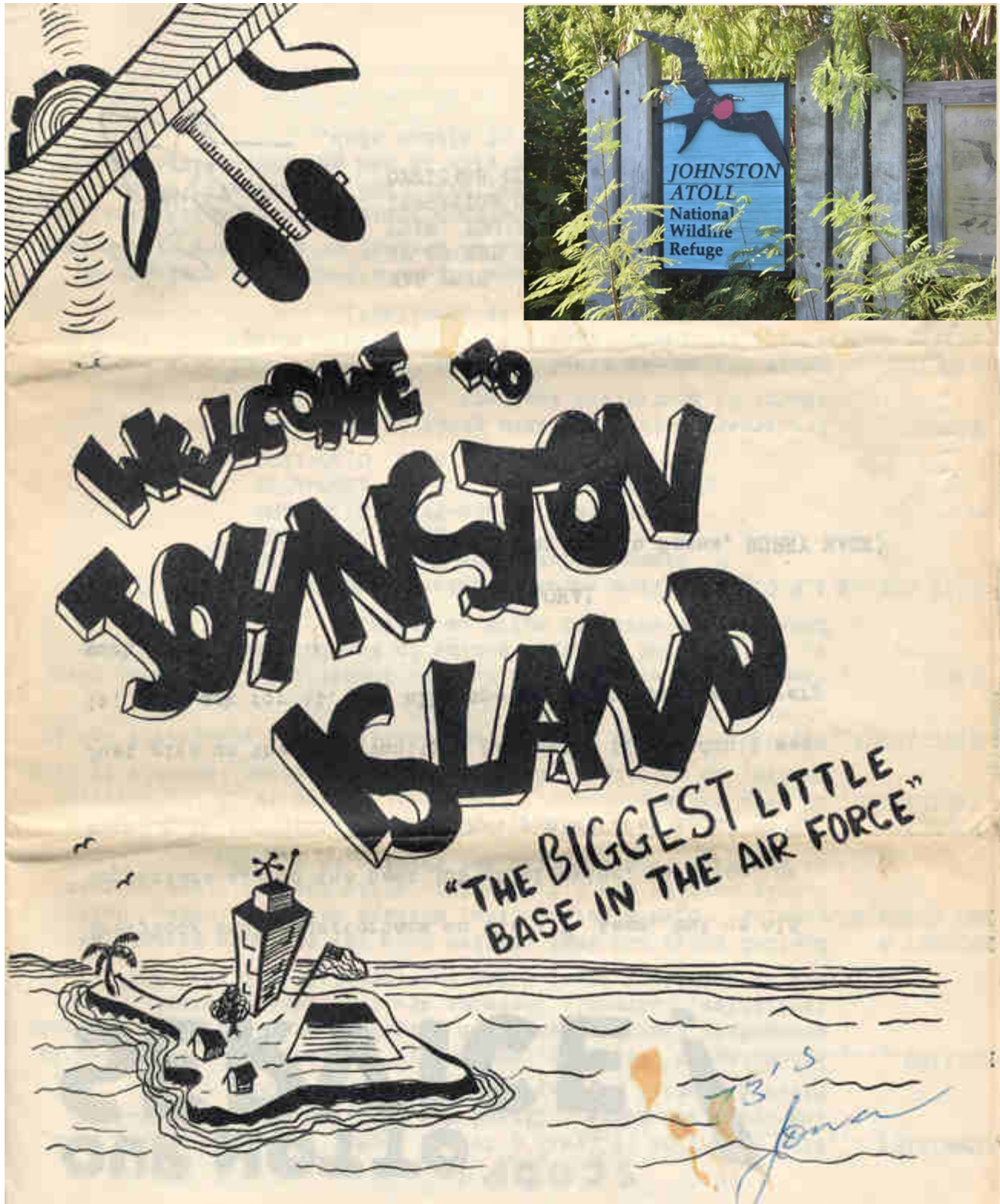
Everybody can't quarterback on the A.F. team, but us old supporters can do the best job of blocking, tackling, or running interference for you that you've ever seen.

Just give us the opportunity. Remember, if you don't see it, just ask for it. We all hope you enjoy your stay very much.

ALoha!  
(Or, as they say in Texas, HURRY BACK)

WAS THIS MAILED TO YOU? IF SO AND YOU PRESENT IT ON YOUR JOHNSTON TRIP, YOU'RE ENTITLED TO A FREE ADMINISTRATION OF PLASMA AT EITHER THE HQO OR OFFICERS CLUB!!!





Lou Dietrich, N2TU (team leader of K9W – Wake Island and co-leader K5P – Palmyra) shared the following about Johnston Atoll:

The USAF has jurisdiction over Johnston and has banned all personnel, except USAF, USFWS and their volunteers. Johnston has a sad history. During the Cold War, not one but two missile tests failed and rained radioactive material on the atoll. Radioactive material was ‘cleaned’ by the Military and their contractors and dumped in the lagoon or on waste piles on the atoll. These waste piles were covered with layers of coral debris to mitigate the problem. They are still there.

Secondly, chemical warfare munitions were destroyed on the atoll (agent Orange and others). A large facility was built to accomplish this and hundreds of workers were assigned to the atoll. Some of them have attempted to claim disability due to exposure but have been met with heavy push-back from the Government and their contractors. The only remaining structure is the JOC (Joint Operations Center) and that is in disrepair though quite usable.

That is some of the history...so now for the Amateur Radio part!

In an attempt to obtain landing permission, multiple proposals have been submitted to the USAF. Initially, the process appeared to be fast tracked. The USAF was aware of the very positive feedback we received after the Wake Atoll operation. For Johnston, the USAF was given a very contained ‘foot print’ of our operations. Our set-up would be self contained and restricted to wherever area USAF deemed safe and of short duration (2 weeks). We would be self financed, have appropriate medical personnel with us, and follow the same protocols as the USFWS volunteers for ingress and egress to the atoll. Additionally, we offered the USAF compensation for any USAF supervision required on the atoll. The Amateur Team individually signed a Waiver of Responsibility, which effectively eliminated any chance of legal action for any reason. The Waiver was a Department Of Defense (DoD) authored document which assured the US Government of complete isolation.

Progress moved ahead nicely until a single Colonel objected on the basis of potentially hazardous material being brought back to our point of embarkation(Hawaii) by personnel’s clothing and/ or other material. Any assurances given, such as we would follow the exact protocol as the dozens of USFWS personnel and further, we would be under the supervision of the USAF, fell on deaf ears.

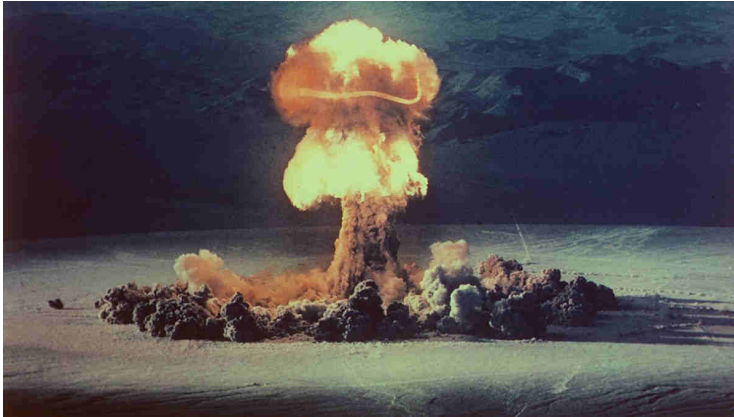
Multiple re-submissions were sent to the good Colonel’s chain of command, up to and including the Secretary of the USAF in the Pentagon. All were summarily dismissed or simply unanswered. Literally, hundred of hours have been invested in the multiple iterations of an Operations Plan, Logistics Plan, soliciting personnel for the operation, attempting to get support from US Senator and Representatives (tough going!), issuing Freedom of Information applications, and on and on.

Quick side note. The FOIAs, which were issued to obtain the true ‘*why was the operation nixed*’ were answered with mostly redacted information. The only information not blacked out was the title of the emails and some small chit chat! Further FOIA requests asked for specific documents detailing the hazard potential expressed by the Colonel (There was dialog between the Colonel and other USAF departments). Again nothing of value was forwarded.

Summarized: Using the guise that hazardous material would be transported off the atoll is simply another

So what happened? Several “unusual” events in the history of Johnston Atoll tell an interesting story. Here are a few:

## Nuclear Testing and Residual Radiation



Johnston was used by the US military from 1934 until 2000, and the island was expanded many times in size through dredging in 1963-4 to expand Johnston Atoll from 220 acres to 625 acres. Although the United States used many uninhabited and remote Pacific islands for nuclear testing, less well known were the US nuclear tests on Johnston Atoll in 1962.

What could wrong when you test nuclear weapons? Plenty. The most significant incident that occurred

was a Thor missile launch mishap on 25 July 1962. The mishap involved the dispersal of weapons grade plutonium. The persistence of low-level residuals created exposure potential for individuals working in the Thor missile launch emplacement and other areas on the Island. The US military closed down the Air Force base on the island and handed it over to the US Fish and Wildlife Service as a nature reserve. A deeper problem remained – how to clean up plutonium contamination from failed nuclear tests in 1962.

In 1962, the US military conducted a nuclear test series of 36 detonations at Christmas Island and Johnston Atoll, codenamed Operation Dominic. The first phase was held from 25 April to 11 July 1962, and the second phase from 2 October to 3 November 1962.

During the first phase, 24 nuclear weapons were dropped from aircraft for airbursts testing. One warhead was sent aloft by a Thor rocket from Johnston Atoll for high altitude detonation. Three other attempted launches of nuclear tipped rockets from Johnston were failures.

During the second phase, four nuclear warheads were fired on rockets from Johnston Atoll for high altitude detonation – one rocket launch was a failure. Five weapons were also dropped from aircraft for airbursts in the vicinity of Johnston Atoll.

There were three successful launches of missiles armed with nuclear warheads at Johnston Atoll during the Dominic series, but four other nuclear missile launches from Johnston were aborted. Plutonium contamination was caused by three of these failed tests, causing radioactive pollution on the island that still lingers to-day.

The first of the contaminating accidents came on 20 June 1962. The launch of a Thor missile carrying a nuclear warhead was aborted a minute into its flight, and a self-destruct order blew the missile apart at a point estimated at 30,000 feet. Large pieces of radioactive debris (including pieces of the booster rocket, engine, re-entry vehicle and missile parts) fell back to the island.



In 2000, the US Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DRTA) conducted the *Johnston Atoll Radiological Survey* (JARS), which noted:

“More debris landed in the surrounding waters and on adjacent Sand Island, where residual plutonium from the test device was found. A large collection of alpha contaminated scrap was isolated during the initial cleanup...It is likely that some portion of the plutonium was pulverised and consequently dispersed in the winds occurring between the destruct altitude and the ground and thus did not contribute to contamination at JA. It is however also likely that residual plutonium, in addition to that recovered from Sand Island, fell into the waters of JA.”

A test conducted on 25 July 1962 caused the most serious contamination. After a malfunction on the launch pad, officials destroyed the rocket by remote control after ignition but before the rocket had lifted off. The explosion of the Thor missile scattered debris in all directions. The US DRTA radiological study describes the disaster as follows:

“Plutonium material mixed with the flaming fuel drained into trench cables and was carried away in the smoke from several fires. This resulted in a deposition of alpha contamination on the launch pad complex that represented a major contamination problem. Contaminated debris was scattered throughout the wire-enclosed pad area and neighbouring areas. Metal revetment buildings were highly contaminated with alpha activity. Burning fuel flowing through cable trenches caused contamination on the interior of the revetments and all equipment contained therein. Fuel, which spilled and flowed over the compacted coral surrounding the launch mount and revetments resulted in highly contaminated areas. Prevailing winds at the time of the destruction caused general contamination of all areas downwind of the launch mount.”

In an effort to continue the testing program, US troops were sent in to do a rapid clean up. The troops scrubbed down the revetments and launch pad, carted away debris and removed the top layer of coral around the contaminated launch pad. The plutonium-contaminated rubbish was dumped in the lagoon, polluting the surrounding marine environment.

The JARS study further notes that:

“much of these [contaminated] sediments may have been incorporated back into the islands in the 1964 dredging and filling work, and thus much of the plutonium contamination from Bluegill Prime may have been redeposited on the island. Any contamination not redeposited on the island through dredge and fill still contaminates the lagoon”.

On 15 October the same year, another test misfired. , the rocket was destroyed at a height of 109,000 feet after it malfunctioned 90 seconds into the flight. US Defense Department officials confirm that when the rocket was destroyed, it contributed to the radioactive pollution on the island.

From 1963 to 1970, Johnston was maintained as a testing site in a state of “readiness to test”. More than 550 drums of contaminated material were dumped in the ocean off Johnston in 1964-5. Since then, US defense authorities have surveyed the island in a series of studies, and collected 45,000 tonnes of soil contaminated with radioactive isotopes. Plutonium pollution was heaviest near the old rocket launching site, in the lagoon offshore the launch pad and near Sand Island. The contaminated soil was dug up and collected on the north of the island, in a fenced area covering 24 acres.

### Toxic Chemical Storage and Lack of Containment



Beyond the 1962 nuclear tests, Johnston Atoll was used to store chemical weapons from Okinawa after 1970 and drums of Agent Orange defoliant from the Vietnam War in 1972. Throughout the 1990s, the island was also the site for the Johnston Atoll Chemical Agents Disposal System (JACADS), an incineration plant for chemical weapons removed from Okinawa and Germany following the end of the Cold War.

### Anoplolepis Gracilipes



More recently, the atoll had been infested with “Crazy Yellow Ants”! Yes, that is the street name for *anoplolepis gracilipes*. (Look it up!) These ants are not indigenous on the atoll and USFWS was tasked to eradicate the CYAs. The CYAs excrete a very acidic substance which gets into the eyes of the sea birds causing them to lose their sight and therefore unable to forage. There have been multiple USFWS volunteer crews on the atoll. These crews live on the atoll, usually for 6 month intervals. They freely roam the atoll and have posted a

few You Tube videos of the atoll. USFWS has done a remarkable job and the infestation seems to be at an end.

### When Will I be Able to Again Work and Confirm Johnson Atoll, KH3?

Plutonium (Pu) has a half life of 24,100 years. Since radioactive decay has to carry on for several half-lives, Johnston Atoll will be reasonably safe for human habitation (and DXpeditions) in just a few hundred thousand years. That’s the long pole in the tent, timewise. Agent Orange residue will probably be non-lethal in a few hundred years. The “Crazy Yellow Ants” may already be past their prime as a DXpedition-inhibitor.

What could happen to put Johnston Atoll (KH3) back on the air? After all, in a few more years it will have risen to the top of the DXCC Want List because of inactivity. I speculate that Johnston Atoll will join China, Albania, Myanmar and the DPRK as places that were ham-less for generations.

But there's one kicker. One thing that separates Johnston Atoll from all the rest: Radioactivity (NOT ham radio activity, Plutonium radioactivity). The often-fatal effects of exposure to high levels of radiation typically take years to display symptoms. Those exposed to radioactivity (Pu-type) are, unfortunately, walking time bombs. The administrators of Johnson Atoll simply don't want hams poking around the island. Period. There are already enough lawsuits pending about Johnston Atoll contamination and health hazards to keep an army of lawyers busy for a long, long time. Why invite more?

The Crazy Yellow Ants were a great cover story for the real inactivity of the Atoll. They're gone. Put a fence around the island. It's done. If you don't have a good KH3 QSL card, I suspect you're out of luck, forever.

They say that nothing lasts forever. And forever is a long time. Unless we elect a DXer (looking to make it to the Top of the Honor Roll) as President, it's hard to imagine any DXpedition landing on Johnston Atoll with valid operating permission.

That's my \$0.02.

73,

Bob, **K9RHY**

## A Well-Deserved Tribute to Recently Silenced Keys

**Kurt Andress, K7NV passed away last night in his sleep at home in Minden NV.**

Kurt was an antenna expert that helped me get my SteppIR up a few years back. He has done a lot of antenna and rotator work over the years for many of us. There are very few antenna experts left that do ham antennas. Kurt (and his skills) will be missed.

Mike NA6MB

**James "Jim" Carl O'Connell, W9WU, age 81, US Army veteran, of LaGrange, IL passed away on August 18, 2022**

It is with great sadness that we learned of our longtime friend becoming a silent key. Jim performed the MC duties of the **W9DXCC convention** for many years creating lasting memories for those that attended. He will be sorely missed. The 2022 W9DXCC convention will be dedicated to the memory of Jim. He was the ARRL's Central Division representative to the DX Advisory Committee and as a practicing attorney acted as an ARRL Volunteer Counsel.

Jim was an advocate for DXers who wanted to erect support structures for their antennas. (He helped me, with Fred Hopengarten, K1VR in my multi-year battle with the City of Poway to erect a 55' tower and assorted monobanders on property.) He fought other battles with municipalities that had created ordinances in violation of PRB-1.

SB QST @ ARL \$ARLB002

ARLB002 ARRL Volunteers, PRB-1 Help Amateurs Get Tower Permits

ZCZC AG02

QST de W1AW

ARRL Bulletin 2 ARLB002

From ARRL Headquarters

Newington CT January 19, 2005

To all radio amateurs

SB QST ARL ARLB002

ARLB002 ARRL Volunteers, PRB-1 Help Amateurs Get Tower Permits

Two Midwestern radio amateurs have succeeded in their efforts to be allowed to erect antenna support structures on their residential properties. Both cases hinged largely on the requirement of the limited federal preemption known as PRB-1 that localities' 'reasonably accommodate' Amateur Radio communication with "minimum practicable regulation."

As a result, city officials in Wheaton, Illinois, have granted John Siepmann, N9NA, a permit to build a 42-foot tower in his back yard. Siepmann's application for a 65-foot free-standing structure faced opposition from his neighbors, who apparently feared that the presence of the antenna support structure would lower property values and lead to TV and telephone interference. He said the city issued him a permit for a 42-foot structure despite opposition from more than 100 neighbors and the posting of "No Radio Tower" signs in front yards. **Representing Siepmann was ARRL Volunteer Counsel and well-known Amateur Radio antenna advocate Jim O'Connell, W9WU.**

According to news reports, Wheaton's attorney told city council members December 6 that because of PRB-1, the city would lose any court case and had no choice but to issue Siepmann a permit for his tower.

After 2 Very Long Years  
The SUMMER BASH  
is BACK!!!  
Come join us!!!  
Come see your DX friends in person  
and have a blast!!!

**September 11, 2022 at Noon**  
(feel free to come as early as 11:30 to socialize)

**Location: Old Poway Park – Area 3**

14134 Midland Rd, Poway CA 92064

**Luncheon catered by Hamburger Factory:  
BBQ buffet of pulled pork and chicken  
with side salads and dessert**

**RSVP is a must by Wednesday 9/7/22.**

RSVP to Tom, [n6joj1@gmail.com](mailto:n6joj1@gmail.com)





## HAM 2022 Sumer Bash September 11, 2022

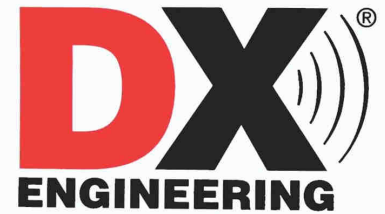
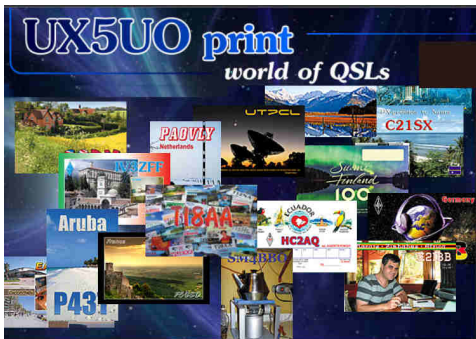
This year's BASH turned out to be a San Diego-focused event with 20 local SoCal DXers (including spouses) participating. The BASH was held in Poway Park on September 11, 2022. Here some selected photos taken by Mike, NA6MB at the 2022 BASH.





## Many Thanks to our Supporters, Friends and Sponsors

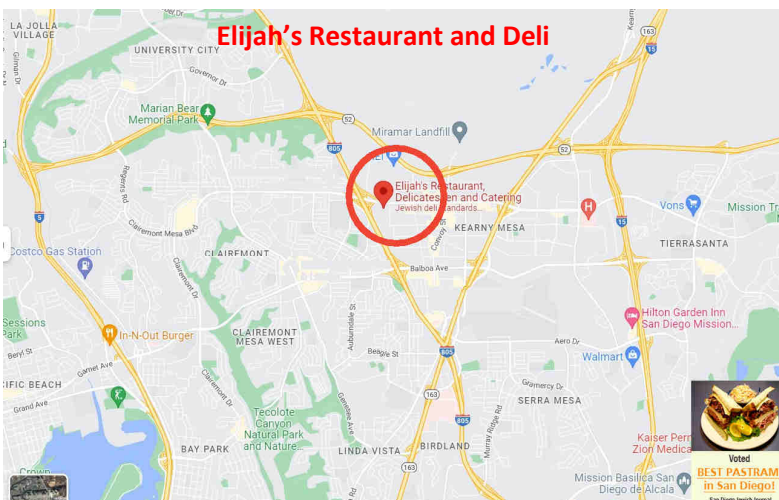
We are pleased to recognize the many businesses that help contribute to the success and vitality of the SDDXC



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